IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

    receiving a design list for a network of servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

    generating a plurality of network designs for the network based upon a design rule and the design list, further comprising receiving a first network design of the plurality of network designs, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location such that the gateway server is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network:

    configuring software and hardware settings for a second server in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design rule and the first network design;

    building a digital image with the software and hardware settings for the second server, the second server having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

    deploying the digital image onto the second server.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a server farm, wherein the network handles variable workloads, and wherein all functions of the network continue to operate in the event the second server of the network fails.

Claims 3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital image is dynamically built.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

      deploying the dynamically built digital image over a network connection in

      response to a netboot request from the first server.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

      rebuilding the digital image for the first server in the

          network; and

      redeploying the digital image for the first server.

Claims 10-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A<u>n computer</u> apparatus <u>having a computer readable storage medium encoded with a set of instructions that, when executed by a processor in the computer, cause the computer to perform a method</u>, comprising:

      means for receiving a design list for a network of servers, the design list

          comprising functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network,

          type of hardware for the network, and number of WAN IP addresses

          assigned to the network:

      means for generating a first network design from a plurality of

          network designs for the network based upon a design rule and the design

          list, wherein a first network design of the plurality of network designs is

          selected, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the

          network is <u>a gateway server layered in a network location such that the gateway server is</u> first in receiving all incoming data packets to the

          network;

      means for configuring software and hardware settings for a second server in

          the network, the software and hardware settings including switches,

          jumpers, IP addresses, links, ports and values of software parameters, the

          configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design

rule and the first network design;

means for building a digital image with the software and hardware

settings for the second server, the second server having a different server

type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations;

and

means for deploying the digital image onto the second server, the second

server accessible to network traffic via the first server.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the

number of WAN IP addresses is fewer than number of the servers in the network.

Claims 23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

graphic user interface having a function to receive a design list for a network of

servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of

hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network, and number of

WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

design rule logic having design instructions, wherein the design instructions

determine a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a

network location such that the gateway server is first to receive all incoming

data packets to the network:

network topology logic having a function to generate a plurality of network

designs for the network according to the design list and the design

instructions, wherein a first design of the plurality of network designs is

selected through the graphic user interface;

configuration logic to configure software and hardware settings for a second

server in the network, the software and hardware settings including

switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software

parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based

upon the design instructions and the first network design;

digital image building logic to build a digital image with the software

and hardware settings for the second server, the second server having a

different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar

operations; and

deployment logic to deploy the digital image onto the second server, the second

server accessible to network traffic via the first server.

Claims 26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the graphic user
interface having a further function to generate the network topology for the network.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

a database to store one or more digital images of a server, one or more

network topologies, and network configurations.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of WAN IP
addresses being fewer than number of servers in the network and wherein configuring
network settings comprising sending a request to a Domain Name System server.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the design rule
instructing how a server in a network can or cannot be employed in the network.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the configuring means
including a Domain Name System server and a network translation software, the
network translation software to route data packets to and from a virtual IP address of
the network.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the design rule logic having further instructions to determine how a server in the network can or cannot be employed in the network.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic further comprising a Domain Name System server and a network translation software, the network translation software to route data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic installing network translation software on a third server in the network, wherein the network translation software routing data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network .

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a server type, the server type indicative of the configured parameters.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising determining, for each of the deployed images, cohesive network settings operable to interconnect servers receiving the deployed images.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein deploying further comprises ~~concurrently~~ deploying images for a plurality of servers at substantially the same time, the plurality of servers including servers of a dissimilar server type.